

Serial No.: 09/942,066

RD-29123-1

Amdt. Dated: June 17, 2004

Reply to Office action of April 16, 2004.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated April 16, 2004 claims 1-16, 26-28, and 31-45 were rejected, and claims 17-25, 29 and 30 were objected to. In a phone conversation on June 15, 2004 the Examiner and the Applicants' representative, Andrew J. Caruso, discussed the claims objected to, claims 17-25, 29 and 30. During the conversation Examiner appeared to be in agreement that claim 17 and claims dependent upon it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In this response, the Applicants request that claims 2 and 17 be cancelled without prejudice. Further, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 17. Amended claim 1 is now identical in scope to originally filed claim 17. As noted, the Examiner has indicated claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 3-31 are all ultimately dependent upon claim 1 and therefore recite patentable subject matter if claim 1 is found to be allowable.

Claim 32 is essentially identical to claim 1 except with respect to the polymer powder being treated by the method. In amended claim 1 the polymer powder from which volatile components are being removed is a polycarbonate powder comprising structural units I, whereas in originally filed claim 32 the polymer powder being treated is bisphenol A polycarbonate powder. Because bisphenol A polycarbonate falls within the scope of structure I, claim 32 falls entirely within the scope of amended claim 1 and should thus be allowable if claim 1 is found to be allowable. Originally filed claims 33-45 are all ultimately dependent upon claim 32 and therefore recite patentable subject matter if claim 32 is found to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and objections and the reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-16, and 18-45.

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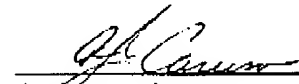
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Should the examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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